

# WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Washington Agricultural Statistics Service

## Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending May 5, 2002

### WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Fieldwork and Planting Several Weeks Behind Schedule in Most Areas  
Frost Damage Reported on Fruit Crops Across State**

### FIELD CROPS

Fieldwork and planting was several weeks behind schedule in most areas. In Jefferson and Clallam Counties, grass silage harvest was underway, about one to two weeks later than normal. The first cuttings of alfalfa was underway in Franklin County. Winter wheat was in good condition and spring crops were emerging normally.

### LIVESTOCK

Range and pasture conditions improved with recent rain. Dairy producers continued to apply liquid manure to forage fields and continued to harvest green chop for silage bags. Wool harvest was 95% complete in Grant County. Range and pasture conditions were 7% poor, 59% fair and 34% good.

### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

In the central and eastern parts of the state, reports of frost damage to fruit crops and asparagus were taken, but the extent of the damage was not yet measurable. In Okanogan and Ferry Counties, fruit crops sustained a heavy loss with cherries having received the heaviest loss. In western Washington, warmer temperatures early in the week resulted in rapid growth of virtually all crops and quick germination of recently planted vegetable seed on organic truck farms. Commercial Asian pear growers worried that frosty conditions may have resulted in severe damage to orchards in full bloom.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.1	5.9

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	90	80	89	91
Spring Wheat Emerged	65	50	65	70
Winter Wheat Headed	3	0	3	2
Barley Planted	80	65	80	86
Barley Emerged	55	35	44	58
Potatoes Planted	70	55	82	89
Potatoes Emerged	28	25	30	41
Corn Planted	36	29	38	56
Dry Peas Planted	50	39	54	63
Dry Edible Beans Planted	15	9	0	1
Proc. Green Peas Planted	48	35	72	53
Alfalfa Hay 1 <sup>st</sup> Cutting	4	0	0	0

Soil Moisture and Supply				
Soil Type	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	15	83	2
Subsoil	0	16	84	0
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Hay and Roughage	3	28	69	0
VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus				

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	7	32	52	8
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	4	91	5
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	4	63	33	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	3	92	5
Barley Dryland	0	0	67	33	0
Barley Irrigated	0	0	2	93	5
VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent					

\* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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## COUNTY COMMENTS

### WESTERN

**Grays Harbor:** Warm, sunny weather, early in the week, expedited field activity as ag producers cultivated nearly 2,000 acres for sweet corn production and an additional 1,000 acres for silage corn. Commercial blueberry growers complained about deer grazing on flowering plants. U-Pick vegetable growers were cultivating fields for control of Canada thistle. Christmas tree growers continued herbicide applications and were setting Midge traps in Douglas fir plantations. Dairymen continued applying liquid manure to forage fields and harvesting “green chop” for silage bags. Home gardeners reported heavy frost in some areas near the end of the week as unseasonably cold temperatures moved in. Commercial Asian pear growers worried that frosty conditions may have resulted in severe damage to orchards in full bloom.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Cool conditions slowed growth of all crops.

**Jefferson/Clallam:** Strong winds, cold temperatures were delaying fieldwork and spring planting. Grass silage harvest was underway, but about one to two weeks later than normal.

**Pierce/South King:** Crop conditions were poor last week. The temperature cooled off, strong winds and

rain were received. The outlook was for field crops to be about two weeks late. No report of crop damage due to weather conditions.

**Snohomish/North King:** Temperatures were well below normal accompanied by heavy rain for several days. Fieldwork and planting was several weeks behind in most areas. Pastures and hay fields were showing improved growth. The snow level was unusually low for this time of year.

**Thurston:** Seventy degree temperatures, early in the week, were welcomed by ag producers throughout the county. The additional heat units resulted in rapid growth of virtually all crops and quick germination of recently planted vegetable seed on organic truck farms. Turfgrass growers were busy plowing harvested fields in preparation for re-seeding. Christmas tree growers reported infestations of Cooley Spruce Gall Adelgids on Douglas fir trees. Dairymen continued to harvest “green-chop”. Conifer tree seedling nurseries continued transplanting seedlings. Cold temperatures, at the end of the week, brought frosty conditions resulting in minor damage to home garden annual bedding plants and vegetable transplants.

### CENTRAL

**Benton:** The temperatures were cooler than normal. The dryland wheat crop had below normal conditions due to the lack of moisture and the excess wind during last week.

**Douglas/Chelan:** Some soft fruit (peaches/cherries) sustained damage due to low temperatures recently. Total loss is unknown at this time; however, damage was spotty. Counties experienced high winds. Some damage has been reported to winter wheat acreage due to snow mold and pests.

**Franklin:** Temperatures continued to be cool. Windy conditions were received occasionally during the week. Asparagus harvest was slow. The first cuttings of alfalfa was underway. Potato planting was complete. Carrots and sweet corn planting continued.

**Grant:** Sweet corn planting was about 30 percent completed. Wool harvest was 95 percent completed.

**Kittitas:** Field preparations continued for sweet corn planting. Timothy, alfalfa, and mixed hay fields were being irrigated. Orchardists indicated that frost damage had occurred in apple and pear acreage. Range and pasture conditions improved with recent rain. Irrigation water supplies were expected to be adequate this year.

**Okanogan/Ferry:** The fruit crops sustained a very heavy loss due to a recent freeze with temperatures as low as 19 degrees. Cherries seemed to have received the heaviest losses. The county has had very little precipitation and has received lots of high winds.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures ranged from 3 degrees below normal to 8 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No crop losses were due to weather conditions.

## EASTERN

**Adams:** Winter wheat continued to look good throughout the county. Spring wheat and barley continued to be in fair conditions, and precipitation was enough to maintain moisture levels.

**Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Temperatures were cold, windy, and sometimes both at once, making all crop progress slower than normal. Some reports of frost damage to fruit crops, and to asparagus were taken, although the extent of damage was not yet measurable. Annual range grasses were heading, shorter than hoped for due to the cool, windy spring.

**Garfield/Asotin:** Warm, sunny weather early last week allowed most farmers to complete spring planting. This was followed by very cool weather with plenty of wind. Winter wheat was in good condition and spring crops were emerging normally.

Rangeland was still slow in recovering from last year's drought, and was growing slowly due to the continued cold weather.

**Lincoln:** Winter wheat was mostly in fair condition, as was the spring planted cereals. Both surface and subsoil moisture levels remained adequate.

**Walla Walla:** Weather conditions continued to be unusually cool with high winds.

**Whitman:** Cool, windy conditions prevailed throughout most of the week, with scattered showers on Saturday afternoon and evening. Rainfall was needed in the western half of the county, but generally crops looked good.

**WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS**  
**May 6, 2002**

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	36	68	49	-2	7	-7	0	0	0.25	-0.31	3	29.60	-0.19	99	133
Everett	39	65	49	-4	7	-11	0	0	0.42	-0.14	2	28.49	-1.27	96	139
Hoquiam	36	63	48	-4	0	-17	0	0	0.30	-0.54	3	60.44	-0.01	100	150
Kelso	36	72	50	-3	8	-13	0	0	0.29	-0.35	2	37.97	-1.94	95	133
Olympia	34	69	48	-3	4	-10	0	0	0.27	-0.30	4	54.98	9.82	122	143
Seattle-Tacoma	39	66	50	-3	10	-11	0	0	0.03	-0.39	1	34.90	2.51	108	126
Shelton	35	69	49	-5	4	-22	0	0	0.18	-0.49	1	67.22	8.19	114	140
Tacoma	36	66	49	-4	2	-21	0	0	0.13	-0.39	2	27.16	-7.53	78	107
Vancouver	34	74	52	1	22	1	0	0	0.12	-0.44	2	34.02	-1.65	95	130
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	31	75	50	-2	16	-5	0	0	0.00	-0.12	0	6.12	-1.18	84	68
Omak	27	79	52	3	28	11	2	2	0.00	-0.33	0	7.78	-2.89	73	59
Stampede Pass	26	57	39	2	0	0	0	0	1.09	0.18	4	69.74	-2.09	97	137
Wenatchee	34	77	56	1	44	4	5	3	0.00	-0.14	0	4.73	-1.91	71	50
Yakima AP	34	78	54	2	33	2	0	0	0.00	-0.07	0	5.51	-0.97	85	50
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	33	76	53	4	31	14	0	0	0.15	-0.26	1	12.44	-3.64	77	69
Deer Park	29	69	49	-2	14	-3	0	0	0.08	-0.27	1	18.49	4.16	129	100
Spokane AP	33	69	49	-2	16	1	0	0	0.21	-0.07	1	11.24	-1.39	89	90
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	33	76	55	-2	39	-6	2	-4	0.00	-0.09	0	4.64	-1.08	81	50
Moses Lake	34	75	55	-1	38	-7	0	-6	0.00	-0.09	0	4.69	-1.03	82	53
Quincy	33	73	53	-2	30	-9	1	-1	0.00	-0.09	0	5.57	-0.66	89	50
Ritzville	29	71	50	-2	17	-1	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	8.53	-0.54	94	64
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	35	79	56	-4	43	-23	6	-8	0.05	-0.02	1	4.85	-0.49	91	44
Pasco	32	78	56	-3	43	-13	5	-2	0.00	-0.11	0	4.11	-1.94	68	44
Pullman	34	68	48	-2	7	-7	0	0	0.10	-0.25	1	15.04	-1.67	90	92
Walla Walla AP	38	73	55	-2	35	-9	1	-4	0.20	-0.18	1	12.07	-3.74	76	86
Whitman Mission	32	75	53	-2	24	-12	0	0	0.02	-0.26	1	10.10	-0.78	93	78
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A'AP	34	68	50	-2	16	-5	0	0	0.00	-0.42	0	15.36	-4.64	77	97
Lewiston ID	40	77	55	1	39	0	2	2	0.01	-0.27	1	7.95	-0.67	92	79

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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